

FORM PTO-1390
(REV. 11-2000)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.

PCT/FI00/00683

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE

August 11, 2000

PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED

August 12, 1999

TITLE OF INVENTION

HOLDER FOR AN IDENTIFICATION CARD

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US

Simo Saari

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☒ This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (21) indicated below.
4. ☒ The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31).
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
 - a. ☒ is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ has been communicated by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☒ An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
 - a. ☒ is attached hereto.
 - b. ☐ has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
7. ☐ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))
 - a. ☐ are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ have been communicated by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. ☐ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3)).
9. ☒ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
10. ☐ An English language translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).

Items 11 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:

11. ☒ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
12. ☐ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13. ☐ A FIRST preliminary amendment.
14. ☐ A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment.
15. ☐ A substitute specification.
16. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
17. ☐ A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821 - 1.825.
18. ☐ A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
19. ☐ A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
20. ☐ Other items or information:

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HOLDER FOR AN IDENTIFICATION CARD

The invention relates to a holder for an identification card, comprising a front side and a reverse side and provided with holding or gripping elements for the identification card for placing the replaceable identification card removably on the front side of the holder, a suspension clip for suspending the holder to a necklace or directly to a bearer's garment, as well as with a yo-yo present between the holder and the suspension clip and comprising a spring-loaded string winder and a string to whose end the suspension clip is attached.

It is prior known to use a separate yo-yo for the suspension of an identification card by way of threading a suspension clip attached to the end of the yo-yo's string through a hole in the identification card. Thus, the identification card can be distanced from its bearer or carrier for example to the proximity of a code reader for an electric lock or some other actuator without releasing the suspension.

On the other hand, it is prior known to attach identification cards to holders which can be suspended to a necklace or directly to a carrier's garment. Distancing or drawing away such identification cards from carrier to code reader is inconvenient as the carrier is often forced to assume an awkward posture to get in the immediate proximity of a code reader or to remove the card along with its holder or to remove the card from the holder (if the microchip carrying the identifier code is on the card).

The existing yo-yos and card holders may also be suspended as extensions of each other by way of suspending a card holder to a suspension clip present at the end of a yo-yo string, whereby the card, along with its card holder, can be distanced from the bearer or carrier to the proximity of a code reader without releasing the suspension. Since the yo-yo and the card holder are separate from each other and suspended as extensions of each other, the result is a bulky, awkward and poorly

manageable assembly which is not pleasant to carry in suspension from a garment or around the neck. Hence, it is conventional to use a yo-yo or a card holder as alternatives to each other, the selection depending on a particular application or necessity. In ski lifts, for example, cards suspended to a yo-yo are in general use while plain card holders, without a yo-yo, have become established in office use.

It is an object of the invention to provide a holder of the above type for an identification card, which is a small-sized, readily portable, and easy-to-handle assembly which can be distanced from a carrier to the proximity of a code reader without releasing the suspension.

This object is achieved by the invention on the basis of the characterizing features defined in the annexed claim 1.

The invention will now be described in more detail with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which

Figure 1 shows an identification card holder of the invention in a side view;

Figure 2 shows the holder of Figure 1 in a front side view;

Figure 3 shows an identification card insertable in the holder of Figure 2;

Figure 4 shows a card holder according to a second embodiment of the invention in a front side or card side view, the outlines of a yo-yo 5 being visible in dashed lines behind the card holder;

Figure 5 shows a clamp element 12 used in the embodiment of Figure 4 for clamping the yo-yo 5 behind a card holder 2 in a variety of operating positions, such that the card holder can be in a horizontal or vertical position;

Figure 5A shows the clamp element of Figure 5 in a view from the direction of an arrow A in Figure 5;

Figure 6 shows the card holder of Figure 4 in a reverse side view, without a clamp element

shown in Figure 5; and

Figure 7 shows one example of an internal structure for the yo-yo 5 in a view of principle.

Figures 1 and 2 depict a holder 2 for an identification card, comprising a substantially flat base plate, the lateral sides of which are provided with lugs 2.1 and the end sides with collars 2.2 rising adjacent to the corners, which together constitute holding and gripping elements for immobilizing an identification card 1. By virtue of the design of the holding and gripping elements 2.1, 2.2 and the flexibility of the identification card 1, such an identification card can be mounted removably on the front side of the holder 2. The holder 2 has its reverse side fitted with a yo-yo 5 positioned in such a way that the yo-yo 5 is partially or preferably entirely masked by the holder 2 and/or the holder-held card 1 as the card 1, along with its holder 2, is viewed from the front side. The card 1 may be provided e.g. with a photograph 11 of the bearer, a text space (not shown) carrying the bearer's name, and a microchip 10 containing an identifier code. The microchip 10 may be optionally mounted on the card holder 2. When the microchip 10 is brought e.g. to the proximity of a code reader for an electric lock or some other actuator, a release of the lock or some other preset function shall occur, the read-out code permitting. The features associated with the microchip 10 and the code reader do not constitute an object of this invention and are generally known in connection with access control systems.

The yo-yo 5 can be mounted on the back of the card holder 2 in a removable fashion, whereby the card holder 2 and the yo-yo 5 are required to have fastening lugs, designed as counterparts for each other and enabling a firm attachment e.g. by way of a snap fit. The yo-yo 5 can be mounted as an integral part of the card holder 2 e.g. by glueing or by manufacturing a housing element for the yo-yo 5 at least partially from the same injection-moulded plastics material which is used for making the holder 2. What is essential is that the yo-yo 5 placed on the reverse side of the

holder 2 is integrated as a part of the holder 2. Thus, when the card 1 is carried, no extra parts are visible as a suspension clip 3 present at the end of a yo-yo string 4 appears to join directly with the card holder 2, as shown in figure 2 with dash-and-dot lines. The suspension clip 3 may be accompanied by a necklace 9 or it can be fixed directly to a garment worn by the bearer, e.g. to the lip of a pocket.

Figures 4-6 depict more specifically a preferred structural solution of the invention, whereby the yo-yo can be attached to the back of a card holder in a removable fashion and in a variety of operating positions, such that the card is optionally either in a horizontal position or in a vertical position, as the case may be. Therefor, between the card holder 2 and the yo-yo 5 is fitted a separate clamp element 12, which is releasably securable in a locking aperture 23 of the card holder 2. The clamp element 12 is designed to accommodate the yo-yo 5 and provided with fastening lugs 24, 25 taking hold of the yo-yo 5 and having a configuration and design which depend on the design and/or protrusions of each available yo-yo, which the fastening lugs 24, 25 are adaptable to take hold of for immobilizing the yo-yo 5 relative to the clamp element 12.

The clamp element 12 includes two clamp protrusions 14a, 14b taking hold behind collars 15 of the locking aperture 23 present in the card holder 2. The locking aperture 23 has its collars 15 provide an annular recess on the card-facing side of the card holder 2. The clamp protrusions 14a, 14b are flat tongues which are set in the recess formed by the collars 15 over on the internal side of the holder 2 (see Figure 4) after the clamp element 12 has been installed in its position on the card holder 2. In the present case, the clamp tongues 14a, 14b are obtained by placing a flat-shaped element 14 on top of a circumferentially circular boss 13 present in the clamp holder 12, the ends of said element extending out beyond the borders of the boss 13. The boss 13 is capable of rotating within the locking aperture 23. The locking aperture 23 has its collars 15 provided with two slots

23a, 23b of unequal widths for accommodating therethrough the clamp tongues 14a, 14b of respectively unequal widths.

The locking aperture collar 15 has its card-facing side provided with a wedge surface 16, the clamp tongue 14a being forcible thereover by turning the clamp element 12 relative to the card holder 2. Adjacent to the wedge surface 16 is a stepped border 17, the clamp tongue 14a colliding therewith, thus impeding a turnback of the clamp element 12. The locking aperture collar 15 has its card-facing side provided with another border surface 19, the clamp tongue 14a colliding therewith after turning the clamp element 12 about 90° from the position in which the same clamp tongue 14a has collided against the stepped border 17. The border surface 19 is preferably a steep wedge surface, which on the one hand functions as a stopper yet, on the other hand, allows the clamp tongue 14a to climb on top of a boss 18 present in the collar surface 15, whereby the clamp element 12 can be removed from the card holder 2 after being turned through full 360° for resetting the clamp tongue 14a in line with the slot 23a. The locking aperture collar 15 has its reverse side, upon which the clamp element 12 is set along with its yo-yo 5, provided with a retainer pin 20, and the clamp element 12 has the side thereof, which comes against the card holder 2, provided with two retainer slots 22 at a 90° angular distance from each other. Between the slots 22 is a guide groove 21 for the pin 20, having its ends provided with wedge surfaces to allow for the locking pin 20 an effortless climb from the groove 21 and a passage into the slot 22.

The identification card holder 2 and the yo-yo clamp element 12 shown in Figures 4-6 may both be manufactured from plastics by injection moulding. The use of a special clamp element 12 offers the benefit that the same card holder can be optionally placed in a horizontal or vertical position. In order to achieve this benefit, the structural details may depart in many ways from the details shown in Figures 4-6.

As for its design, the yo-yo 5 may be of any commercially available type, nor is it an object of this invention. In order to visualize the action, however, Figure 7 illustrates one structural solution of principle, comprising a winder 6 for winding a string 4 therearound and having inside a space for a spiral spring 7, one end of which is fastened to the string winder 6 and the other end is fastened to a fixed centre axle 8. The spiral spring 7 applies such a load on the string winder 6 that the string 4 is normally completely retracted around the winder 6. When the holder 2 is distanced from a bearer, the string 4 emerges from the yo-yo 5 and enables the holder 2 and the card 1 carried thereby to be drawn away from the bearer to a distance which is typically about half a meter at maximum. When the holder 2 is released, the spring-loaded yo-yo 5 retracts, through the intermediary of the string 4, the holder 2 back alongside the suspension clip 3.

Claims

1. A holder (2) for an identification card (1), comprising a front side and a reverse side and provided with holding or gripping elements (2.1, 2.2) for the identification card (1) for placing the replaceable identification card (1) removably on the front side of the holder (2), a suspension clip (3) for suspending the holder (2) to a necklace (9) or directly to a bearer's garment, as well as with a yo-yo (5) present between the holder (2) and the suspension clip (3) and comprising a spring-loaded string winder (6) and a string (4) to whose end the suspension clip (3) is attached, characterized in that the yo-yo (5) is fastened and positioned on the reverse side of the card holder (2), such that the yo-yo (5) is partially or completely masked by the holder (2) and/or the card (1) as the card with its holder (1, 2) is viewed from the front side.

2. A holder as set forth in claim 1, characterized in that the card holder (2) and the yo-yo (5) have there between a clamp element (12), which is releasably insertable in a locking aperture (23) present in the card holder (2) and which is designed for accommodating the yo-yo (5) and provided with fastening lugs (24, 25) taking hold of the yo-yo (5).

3. A holder as set forth in claim 2, characterized in that the clamp element (12) is provided with two clamp protrusions (14a, 14b) taking a hold behind collars (15) of the locking aperture (23) present in the card holder (2).

4. A holder as set forth in claim 3, characterized in that the locking aperture (23) has its collars (15) constitute an annular recess on the card-facing side of the card holder (2), and that the clamp protrusions (14a, 14b) are flat tongues located in said recesses.

5. A holder as set forth in claim 4, characterized in that the locking aperture (23) has its collars (15) provided with two slots (23a, 23b) of unequal widths for accommodating therethrough the clamp tongues (14a, 14b) of respectively unequal widths.

6. A holder as set forth in claim 4 or 5, characterized in that the locking aperture collar (15) has its card-facing side provided with a wedge surface (16), the clamp tongue (14a) being forcible thereover by turning the clamp element (12) relative to the card holder (2), and that alongside the wedge surface (16) is a stepped border (17), the clamp tongue (14a) colliding therewith, thus impeding a turn-back of the clamp element (12).

7. A holder as set forth in claim 6, characterized in that the locking aperture collar (15) has its card-facing side provided with another border surface (19), the clamp tongue (14a) colliding therewith after turning the clamp element (12) about 90° from the position in which the same clamp tongue (14a) has collided against the stepped border (17).

8. A holder as set forth in claim 6 or 7, characterized in that the locking aperture collar (15) has its reverse side, upon which the clamp element (12) is set along with its yo-yo (5), provided with a retainer pin (20), and the clamp element (12) has the side thereof, which comes against the card holder (2), provided with two retainer slots (22) at a 90° angular distance from each other.

9. A holder as set forth in claim 1, characterized in that the yo-yo (5) is fastened as an integral part of the card holder (2).

10. A holder as set forth in claim 1, characterized in that a microchip (10) containing an identifier code is attached to the holder (2) or the identification card (10).

Abstract

The invention relates to an identification card holder (2), on the front side of which a replaceable identification card (1) can be placed. A spring-loaded yo-yo (5) is fastened and positioned on the reverse side of the holder (2), such that the yo-yo (5) remains partially or completely invisible as the card, along with its holder, is viewed from the front side. As the yo-yo is integrated with the holder, the result will be a small-sized, readily portable, and easy-to-handle assembly, which can be distanced from a bearer to the proximity of a code reader for an electric lock without releasing the suspension.

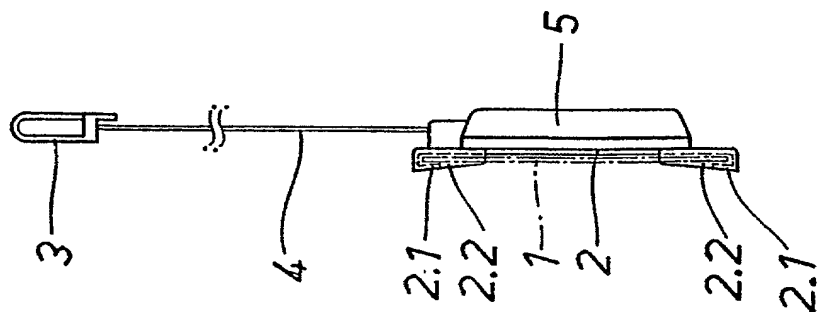


Fig. 1

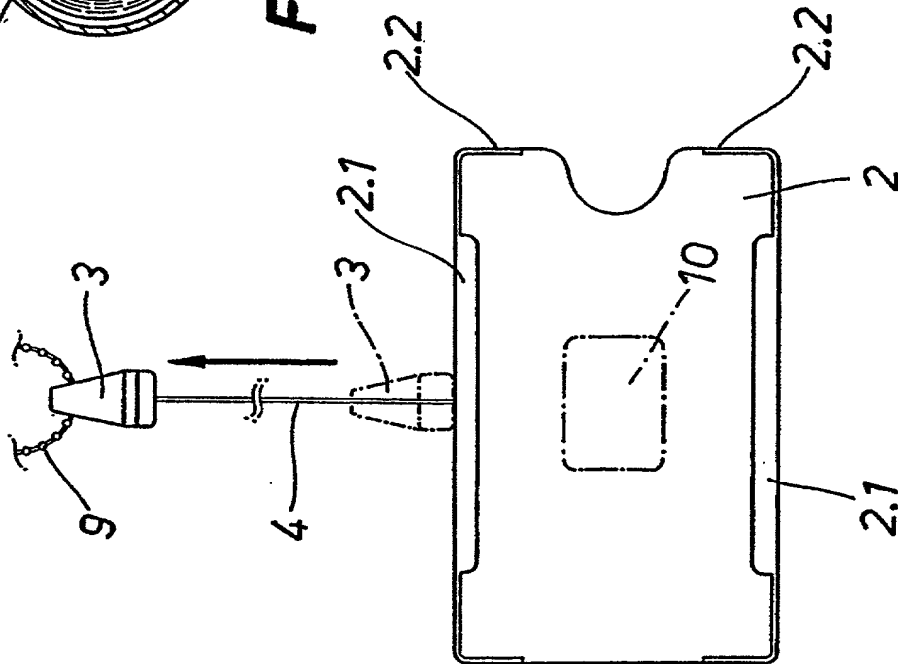


Fig. 2

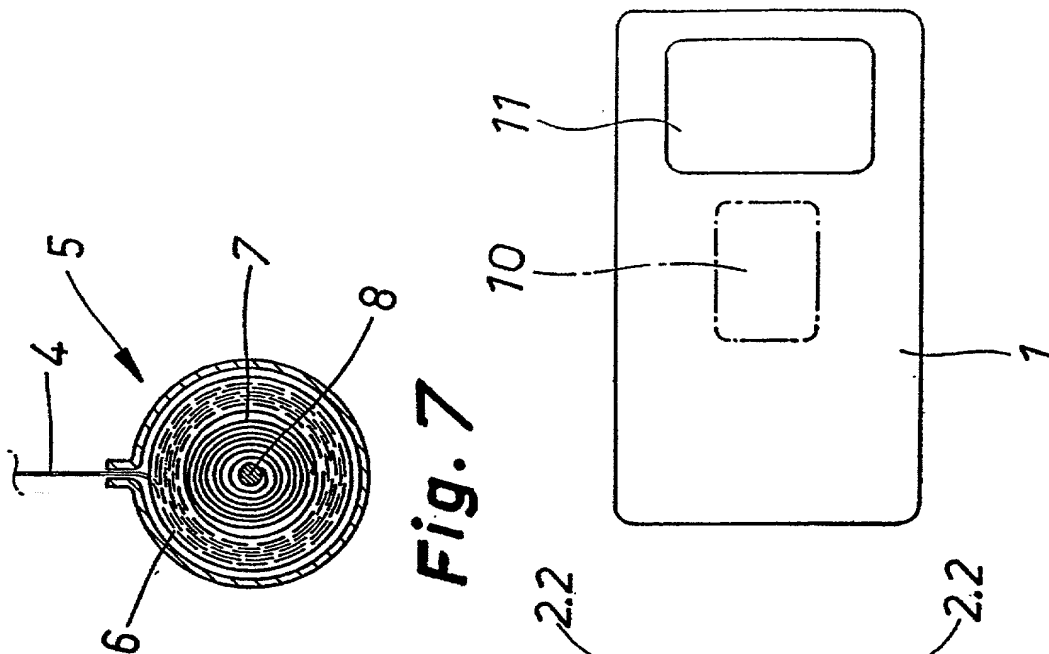


Fig. 3

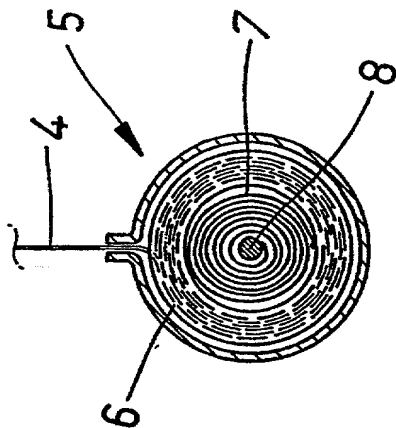


Fig. 7

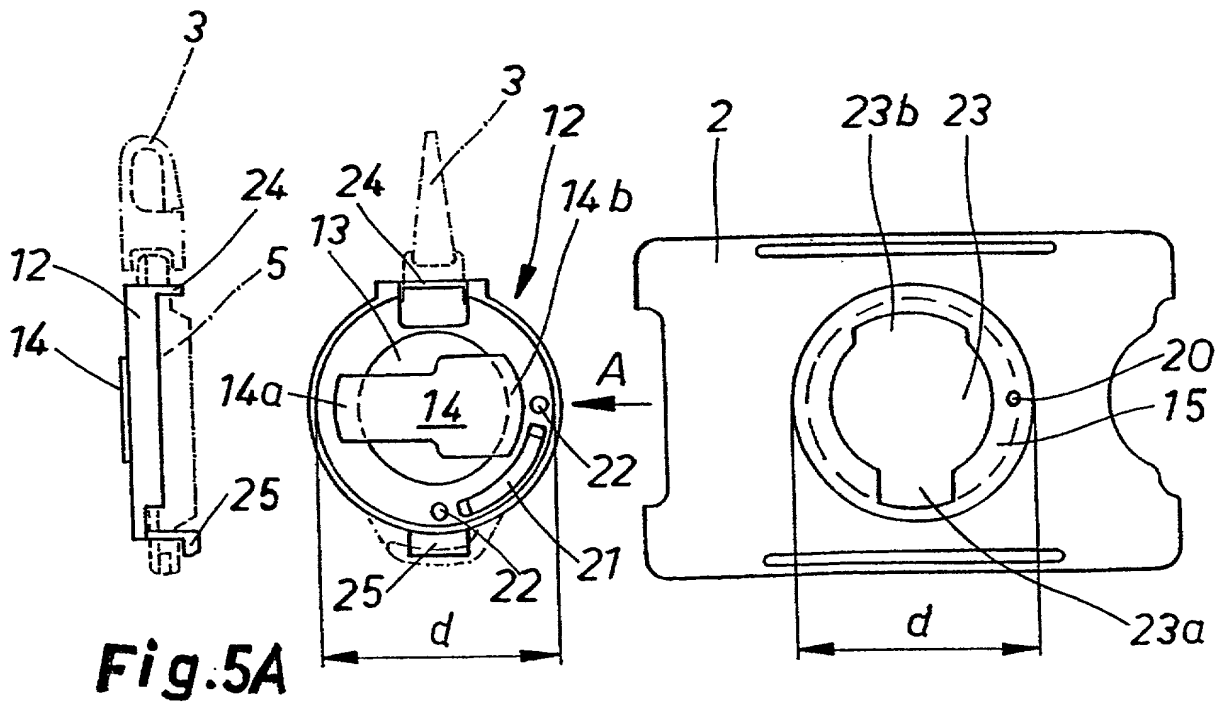
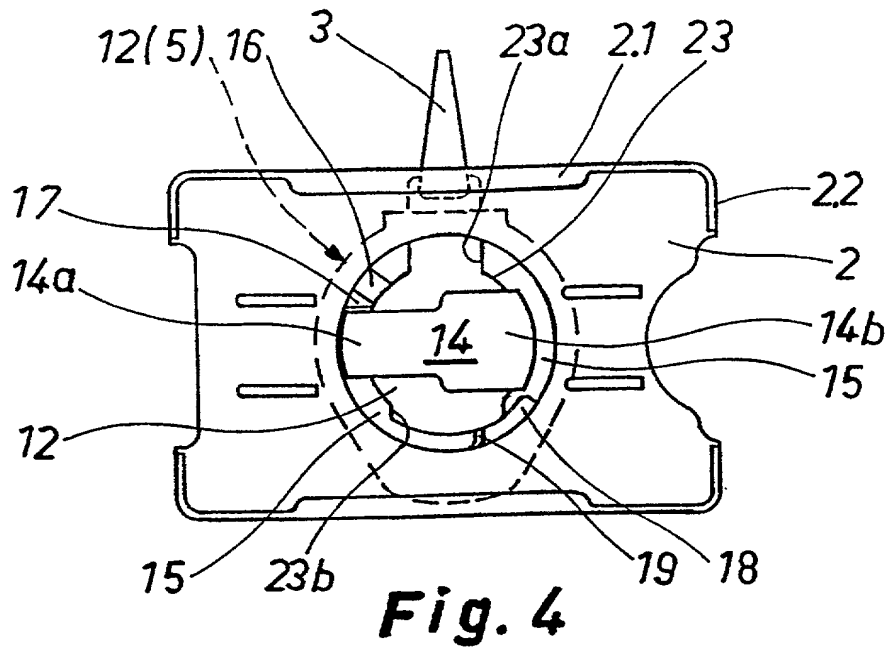
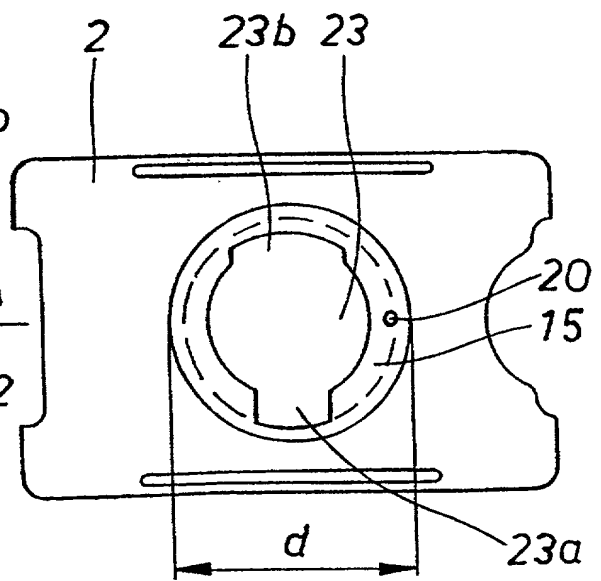


Fig. 6



**DECLARATION FOR UTILITY OR
DESIGN
PATENT APPLICATION
(37 CFR 1.63)**

☐

Declaration
Submitted
with Initial
Filing

OR

☐

Declaration
Submitted after Initial
Filing (surcharge
(37 CFR 1.16 (e))
required)

Attorney Docket Number

21261

First Named Inventor

Simo Saari

COMPLETE IF KNOWN

Application Number

/

Filing Date

Group Art Unit

Examiner Name

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, mailing address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

HOLDER FOR AN IDENTIFICATION CARD

(Title of the Invention)

the specification of which

☐

is attached hereto

OR

☒

was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY)

August 11, 2000

as United States Application Number or PCT International

Application Number

FI00/00683

and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY)

(if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56, including for continuation-in-part applications, material information which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or (f), or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Not Claimed	Certified Copy Attached?	
				YES	NO
991712	Finland	8/12/1999	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto:

[Page 1 of 2]

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

DECLARATION — Utility or Design Patent ApplicationDirect all correspondence to: ☐ Customer Number OR ☒ Correspondence address belowPeter N. LalosName LALOS & KEEGANAddress 1146 19th Street, NW, 5th FloorCity WashingtonState D.C.ZIP 20036-3723Country U.S.A.Telephone 202/887-5555Fax 202/296-1682

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

NAME OF SOLE OR FIRST INVENTOR: ☐ A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventorGiven Name
(first and middle [if any]) SimoFamily Name
or Surname SAARIInventor's
Signature Date 21.02.2002Residence: City Helsinki FIN

State

Country FinlandCitizenship FinnishMailing Address Tehtaankatu 25City Helsinki

State

ZIP FIN-00150Country Finland

NAME OF SECOND INVENTOR:

☐ A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventorGiven Name
(first and middle [if any])Family Name
or SurnameInventor's
Signature

Date

Residence: City

State

Country

Citizenship

Mailing Address

City

State

ZIP

Country

☐ Additional inventors are being named on the _____ supplemental Additional Inventor(s) sheet(s) PTO/SB/02A attached hereto.